

**Seeking Collaborators to Assist NASA in Inspiring a New Generation of
Scientists, Engineers, Explorers, Educators and Innovators**
Announcement No. NNH11ZHA0050

Frequently Asked Questions

Most recent questions listed first

Questions as of July 27, 2012

Q24. Why is NASA Office of Education releasing a call for unfunded partnerships? I'm more accustomed to seeing competitive funding opportunities from NASA.

A24. An announcement for unfunded partnerships is a relatively new way of doing business for NASA Office of Education. In an effort to expand the national reach and impact of NASA STEM education efforts, NASA seeks to leverage the Agency's unique assets and capabilities with those of external organizations sharing a common vision for STEM education.

Q23. One of the evaluation criteria for the partnership Announcement is to "enhance NASA's ability to reach new or broader audiences across a national scale." Will NASA Office of Education consider submissions that are not national in scope?

A23. No. Organizations interested in smaller scale (local, regional) collaboration should contact a NASA Field Center education office directly to discuss collaborative opportunities, including potential for national scale reach. NASA has ten Field Centers located across the US, each servicing a specific geographic region. Please visit <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/contacts/cdirect.html> for information on geographical service regions and contact information for NASA's Field Center Education Directors. NASA Office of Education may choose to prevent submissions that are not considered national in scope from entering the review cycle.

Q22. What does NASA Office of Education mean by "national scale" partnership?

A22. A national scale partnership is one that directly impacts large numbers of people across multiple states and multiple (3 or more) NASA geographical service regions (see also Q23).

Q21. What is a NASA education partnership?

A21. A NASA education partnership is one that is bounded by a formal agreement, typically a nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement. NASA education partnerships help the Agency achieve its strategic goals as they pertain to education. See also the NASA Space Act Agreements Guide, http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/NPD_attachments/NAII_1050_1B.pdf:

1.4. NONREIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT (pp. 11-12)

Nonreimbursable SAAs involve NASA and one or more Partners in a mutually beneficial activity that furthers NASA's mission, where each party bears the cost of its participation, and there is no exchange of funds between the parties. They

permit NASA to offer time and effort of personnel, support services, equipment, expertise, information, or facilities. It is appropriate to use a Nonreimbursable SAA where NASA and its Partner(s) are performing activities collaboratively for which each is particularly suited and for which the end results are of interest to both parties.

Q20. The activity we are proposing is an education-based proposal and also requires the use of a NASA technical facility and content expertise from scientists and engineers. Are these acceptable requests for education partnerships?

A20. NASA education evaluates submissions for educational merit. If a submission reviews favorably and is well-aligned to NASA's Strategic Goals for education, NASA Office of Education may choose to share the proposal with other NASA organizations to determine interest.

Q19. I am a teacher at a local school. Is my school eligible to respond to this Announcement?

A19. Yes, your school is eligible. However, before investing too much time in developing a response to the Announcement, please be sure the requested partnership activities meet the criteria of this Announcement. As noted under "Statement of Purpose" on page 2, NASA seeks to work with organizations that can help NASA reach "new or broader audiences across a national scale." If you are interested in collaborating with NASA education on a local or regional level, please directly contact the NASA Field Center servicing your geographical region (see also Q23).

Q18. We believe that we will be able to secure funding for our project by demonstrating NASA partnership. Can we use a partnership with NASA to attract corporate sponsors for our project?

A18. NASA is prohibited by federal regulation from endorsing any business, product, or service. For detail, please see pp.45-46 of the Space Act Agreements Guide (http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/NPD_attachments/NAII_1050_1B.pdf)

Title 51 of the United States Code prohibits the knowing use of the words 'National Aeronautics and Space Administration' or the letters 'NASA' in connection with a product or service "in a manner reasonably calculated to convey the impression that such product or service has the authorization, support, sponsorship, or endorsement of, or the development, use or manufacture by, or on behalf of [NASA] which does not, in fact, exist.

Consequently, NASA's policy is to allow the NASA name and initials to be used in non-NASA publications (*e.g.*, advertisements, promotional literature, etc.) only if:

- 1)The use is factual and does not, either expressly or by implication, endorse a commercial product, service or activity; and
- 2)The use does not mislead in any manner.

Q17. Does entering into a partnership with NASA through a Space Act Agreement allow

an organization to use the NASA logo/Insignia?

A17. Entering into a Space Act Agreement does not entitle the Partner access to using the NASA logo. Any proposed public use by a Partner of the NASA logo, name or initials must be submitted in advance to NASA Office of Communications for review and approval. Please reference Section 2.2.11 of the Space Acts Agreement Guide (http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/NPD_attachments/NAII_1050_1B.pdf p. 46):

“Use of NASA emblems/devices (*i.e.*, NASA Seal, NASA Insignia, NASA logotype, NASA Program Identifiers, and the NASA Flag) is governed by 14 C.F.R. Part 1221 and requires prior review and approval by the NASA Office of Communications. Thus, permission to use any of the NASA emblems/devices should not be granted in a SAA without the prior written approval of the NASA Office of Communications.”

Q16. Can we enter into a Space Act Agreement with NASA to formalize our commitment to work together first and then determine the details of the partnership after the agreement is formalized?

A16. No. Entering into a Space Act Agreement with NASA requires a clear articulation of purpose, intended outcomes, role and responsibilities for each party, milestones, and deliverables.

Q15. Are there general guidelines for when a Space Act Agreement becomes necessary to collaborate with NASA education?

A15. Each situation is handled on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule of thumb, the following criteria help determine if a Space Act Agreement is necessary:

- Activity requires a commitment of NASA or Partner resources (e.g., personnel, facilities, or equipment);
- A set of “legally enforceable promises” are required;
- Activity has the potential to involve use of the NASA insignia (*i.e.*, “meatball”);
- The Partner is requesting co-branding;
- The proposed activity cannot be accomplished through other means (contracts, leases, grants, cooperative agreements). Please refer to the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES <http://nspires.nasaprs.com>) for examples of competitive funding announcements for education. For example, if the requested partnership activity aligns with the scope of NASA funding announcements, it is NOT ELIGIBLE for consideration under this Announcement.

Q14. Can you provide a list of NASA funding opportunities to help us determine whether our requested partnership activities do not fall within the scope of a NASA funding opportunity?

A14. NASA funding opportunities for grants and cooperative agreements vary from year to year and are dependent on the availability of Congressionally appropriate funds. Existing and past funding announcements are available through the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES <http://nspires.nasaprs.com>).

Q13. Can NASA help a responding organization approach NASA retirees? Astronauts?

A13. NASA typically cannot help to schedule NASA retirees. Current Astronauts are covered by their own office. More details at: <http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/>. There is a separate process to request a NASA astronaut for an event. Learn how to request an astronaut at <http://www.nasa.gov/about/speakers/astroautappearances.html>

Questions as of September 21, 2011

Q12. How does the “Nonreimbursement” policy statement relate to the Space Act (51 U.S.C. Para. 20101-164) authorizing NASA “to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements or other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its work and on such terms as it may deem appropriate.” Does this mean that in certain situations contracts, leases, etc., can be entered into in which Agreement Partners receive funds to carry out activities deemed to be mutually beneficial to both parties?

A12. This Announcement is for an unfunded partnership in the form of a Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement. Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreements are carried out under NASA’s authority to ‘enter into and perform such... other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its work...’.

They are distinct from other types of legal agreements, and do not call for Agreement Partners to receive funds to carry out any activities, regardless of whether activities are deemed to be mutually beneficial to both parties. Contracts and leases are governed by other complex and sophisticated legal regimes which do not have direct bearing on this Announcement. See FAQs 2 and 9 for more information.

Q11. Please clarify the financial arrangements under which a “Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement” operates. If there is no exchange of funds between the parties, what are the financial obligations (cash or kind) of a university seeking to participate as an Agreement Partner?

A11. Please see FAQs 2 and 9.

Questions as of July 5, 2011

Q10. Since we are based in <<city>>, where would these services need to take place? For example, could we provide our resources/services from this area, or would it be necessary to travel to a different location?

A10. NASA does not place requirements on locations of proposed partnership activities. Please note the following evaluation criterion stated on page 3 of the Announcement: “The collaboration will enhance NASA’s ability to reach new or broader audiences across a national scale.”

Q9. I understand that we will be responsible for funding. What is the estimated amount of funding and personnel involvement required?

A9. Each Partner will be responsible for providing all funding and personnel that the Partner needs to fulfill their obligations under a Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement

negotiated with NASA. These resources may vary depending on the type of project a Respondent proposes. NASA does not otherwise require a specific amount of funding or personnel from Partners. NASA evaluates proposals against the criteria stated in the Announcement. Please note, in particular, the following criteria on page 3 of the Announcement:

- ☐ The responding organization demonstrates sufficient experience to accomplish proposed activities during stated timeline.
- ☐ The responding organization demonstrates sufficient financial resources to carry out project.

Please also note the definition of Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement on page 5 of the Announcement: Nonreimbursable SAAs “involve NASA and one or more Agreement Partners in a mutually beneficial activity that furthers the Agency’s mission, wherein each party bears the cost of its participation, and there is no exchange of funds between the parties.” NASA Policy Directive 1050.1I, “Authority to Enter into Space Act Agreements,” paragraph 1.b.

Q8. What is the term for a partnership agreement with NASA?

A8. Space Act Agreement terms generally range from one to five years, depending on the scope of the agreement.

Questions as of June 14, 2011

Q7. What is the timeline for starting partnership projects? Is it necessary for activities to begin as soon as possible or can they start in the future, for example, as far as 2014?

A7. The Announcement states that NASA is seeking collaborations that will help NASA achieve one or more of the NASA strategic goals for education described in the 2011 NASA Strategic Plan, and that the last review cycle will begin on January 3, 2012. While NASA has no specific requirements for when activities should begin, it is expected that activities will commence within a reasonable time after the Parties have executed a Space Act Agreement detailing the terms and conditions for their collaboration and within the scope of NASA’s current funding horizon. Responders are reminded that this Announcement does not represent the only avenue for entering into Space Act Agreements with NASA, and that NASA issues new Announcements on a regular basis.

Questions as of April 28, 2011

Q6. Can you give me examples of the types of materials/resources that we might consider requesting as we design the application?

A6. Respondents may request access to NASA assets and resources, such as people, content, and facilities. NASA will consider each request on a case-by-case basis during the evaluation process. Please note the fourth evaluation criteria on page 3 of the Announcement: “The level of NASA resources requested for the collaboration is commensurate with the level of value and benefits offered to NASA.”

Q5. Are you looking for individual contributors as partners/collaborators?

A5. Please see page 3 of the Announcement under **Eligibility**: “All categories of

domestic entities, including U.S. Federal government agencies, are eligible to respond to this Announcement.” Individuals are eligible to respond to this Announcement.

Q4. May we discuss potential partnership ideas with NASA before the response due date?

A4. One objective of this Announcement is to encourage innovation and creativity for NASA education. For this reason, NASA Office of Education cannot provide additional direction, other than what is already provided in the Announcement on how to frame and develop the proposed response.

Q3. Are international organizations eligible to respond to this Announcement?

A3. Please see page 3 of the Announcement under **Eligibility**: “All categories of domestic entities, including U.S. Federal government agencies, are eligible to respond to this Announcement.” International organizations are not eligible to respond.

Q2. Please clarify if funds to partner organizations are available through this announcement.

A2. Please see page 1 of the announcement under **Statement of Purpose**: “The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) seeks unfunded collaboration with organizations to enhance its ability to achieve its strategic goals, outcomes and objectives as they relate to education.” Please also review **General Information** on page 4 and the definition of **Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement** on page 5. Respondents will be responsible for financing their own activities. No NASA funding is available for this purpose

Q1. Please clarify how an external organization would benefit from partnering with NASA as a result of this announcement.

A1. It is up to respondent organizations to determine the value of potential partnership with NASA. One direct outcome of a partnership with NASA on its education efforts is alignment with NASA on addressing national education priorities to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.